

Message Text

SECRET

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10

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 024907

O R 250951Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9476

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T CAIRO 950

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LEB, SY

SUBJECT: DEPLOYMENT OF AIN JALLUT FORCES

1. EGYPTIAN CHIF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, GENERAL NASSAR, TOLD AMBASSADOR LAST NIGHT IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT ONE BATTALION OF THE PLO AIN JALLUT BRIGADE HAD BEEN SENT TO SYRIA AND SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED IN LATAKIA LAST NIGHT. DEPLOYMENT WAS BY SEA AND WAS MADE AT SPECIFIC REQUEST OF ARAFAT AFTER SYRIANS SENT QADASIYAH UNITS INTO LEBANON. ARAFAT HAD INDICATED HE HAD ASSAD'S AGREEMENT AND THAT AIN JALLUT ELEMENTS NEEDED TO BALANCE QADASIYAH TROOPS WHO ARE COMPLETELY UNDER SYRIAN CONTROL.

2. AIN JALLUT BATTALION, ACCORDING TO NASSAR, WAS SENT IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND WITHOUT WEAPONS. WEAPONS RE SUPPOSED TO BE OBTAINED FROM PREPOSITIONED STOCKPILE IN SYRIA. IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING ARAFAT INTENTS TO DEPLOY THE UNIT INTO LEBANON AS NEEDED.

3. NASSER ADDED THIRTY-FIVE RPT THIRTY-FIVE MAN ADVANCE GROUP OF AIN JALLUT BATTALION HAD BEEN AIRLIFTED TO DAMASCUS SEVERAL DAYS AGO TO PREPARE FOR SEABORNE ELEMENTS (FAHMY HAD SAID FIFTY MEN, BUT NOTHING ABOUT BATTALION EMPLOYMENT.)

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4. NASSAR CLAIMED AIN JALLUT BRIGADE IS UNDER HIS PERSONAL CONTROL. HIGHEST LEVEL GOE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ARAFAT'S REQUEST AND SEND BATTALION. DOING SO ALSO SERVED EGYPT'S INTEREST BY INSURING LEBANON DOES NOT FALL COMPLETELY UNDER SYRIAN DOMINATION.
EILTS

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NNN

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